

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02858 161322Z

50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 IO-14

AID-20 OMB-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

L-03 DRC-01 /104 W

----- 012866

R 161306Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 251

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

S E C R E T COLOMBO 2858

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MJBR

SUBJ: HANCOCK TASK FORCE

REF STATE 224312 COLOMBO 2849

1. AT CONCLUSION MY CONVERSATION WITH PM NOV 16, I REFERRED TO DEPLOYMENT OF HANCOCK TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. I SAID I REALIZED THIS MATTER WAS OF SOME CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT IN VIEW GSL'S BASIC POLICY AND WANTED HER TO KNOW THAT WE APPRECIATED RESTRAINT GSL HAD DEMONSTRATED. USG DID NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MAJOR POWER NAVAL COMPETITION IN INDIAN OCEAN. HOWEVER, IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY RE FREEDOM OF SEAS, WE CONSIDERED IT IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE US NAVAL VESSELS PAY PERIODIC VISITS TO INDIAN OCEAN. THIS MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN KEEPING WITH GSL'S INTEREST SINCE IT ENSURED THAT NO SINGLE EXTERNAL POWER HAD EXCLUSIVE POSITION IN INDIAN OCEAN. COURSE OF TASK FORCE WOULD NOT TAKE IT NEAR ANY COUNTRIES IN SUB-CONTINENT. IT DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY PORT CALLS, AND IT WAS IN NO WAY DIRECTED AGAINST LITTORAL STATES.

2. PM ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WAS SOME PRESSURE WITHIN GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT IN VIEW GSL'S SPONSORSHIP OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL. GSL HAD QUERIED AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE

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IN WASHINGTON FOR INFORMATION RE TASK FORCE AND HE HAD RE-

COMMENDED THAT, GOVERNMENT NOT ISSUE STATEMENT. SHE HAD AGREED
NO STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE. MDFA DEPMIN LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY
HAD BEEN "TRAPPED" BY OBSERVER REPORTER AND HAD FELT COMPELLED
TO MAKE GENERAL COMMENT ON GSL'S POSITION (COLOMBO 2849)
BUT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD CAUSE US ANY PROBLEMS.
I SAID IT DID NOT AND AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GSL'S
RESTRAINT. VAN HOLLEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB02858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731130/aaaaavnt.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 224312 COLOMBO 2849
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HANCOCK TASK FORCE
TAGS: MARR, XO, US, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005